

Canadian multiculturalism is fundamental to our belief that all citizens are equal. Multiculturalism ensures that all citizens can keep their identities, can take pride in their ancestry and have a sense of belonging. Acceptance gives Canadians a feeling of security and self-confidence, making them more open to, and accepting of, diverse cultures. The Canadian experience has shown that multiculturalism encourages racial and ethnic harmony and cross-cultural understanding, and discourages ghettoization, hatred, discrimination and violence.

– Government of Canada (2009)



Servus Heritage Festival 2009 marks the 34th annual of this premier three-day showcase of Canada's vibrant multicultural heritage. We will feature 62 pavilions representing over eighty cultures from all over the world. Sample culinary delicacies, see creative performances, shop for crafts, artwork, and clothing, or chat with people eager to tell you a little about their cultural roots and their present-day communities in Canada. – Servus Heritage Festival, Edmonton (2009)



"Last night I ate dinner at my friend Jenna's house. Jenna's mom made rice and her dad showed me how to eat it with wooden sticks. At first it was hard and I kept dropping the rice on my lap but by the end of the night it was easy. Jenna's parents let me keep my chopsticks; now I use them all the time."

- Abigail, age 10



*"Everyone tells me that I have the most beautiful chocolate colored skin. I always tell them that it is because my mom is white and my dad is black."* - Roxanne, age 17

